REMARKS

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to amend the claims to place the present application in condition for allowance. Applicants request the Examiner to carefully consider the above amendments and following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3-5, 10, 12-14, 24-26, 28, and 33-36 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent 6424984 (Yao) in view of US patent publication 20030210226 (Ho '226), US patent publication 20040008589 (McMillan), US patent 4247927 (Oooka), and US patent 5614808 (Konoya).

Claim 1, as amended, recites a bookmark having an integrated electronic timer circuit for tracking reading times for individuals comprising a substrate and a header integral with the substrate. The header has a time display and control panel. The time display has two digits for a first time readout and two digits for a second time readout. The control panel has a plurality of control buttons for starting time and stopping time and reversing counting direction. An electronic timer circuit is housed within the header for receiving commands from the control panel and providing a timer signal to the time display. The electronic timer circuit has (a) an oscillator for generating a clock signal, (b) a timer receiving the clock signal to count elapsed time, the timer being configurable to track incremental times and cumulative times for each of a plurality of individual readers and for each of a plurality of books for each of the plurality of individual readers, (c) a memory circuit coupled to the timer for storing the incremental and cumulative times and calendar date and time of reading sessions for each of the

plurality of individual readers, (d) a control interface having an input coupled to the control panel on the header and an output coupled to the timer, wherein the control interface receives commands to start time and stop time and reverse counting direction, (e) an audible alarm coupled to the timer for announcing a time sequence, (f) a display interface having an input coupled to the timer and an output coupled to the time display on the header, and (g) a sensor responsive to light conditions to start and stop the electronic timer circuit.

None of the cited prior art references, taken singularly or in combination, teach or suggest the timer as configurable to track incremental times and cumulative times for each of a plurality of individual readers and for each of a plurality of books for each of the plurality of individual readers. Moreover, none of the prior art references disclose a memory circuit coupled to the timer for storing the incremental and cumulative times and calendar date and time of reading sessions for each of the plurality of individual readers. These features are missing from the cited prior art references.

Certainly, none of the cited prior art references, taken singularly or in combination, teach or suggest a sensor responsive to light conditions to start and stop the electronic timer circuit. Applicants believe that the recited sensor feature is not found in any individual cited prior art reference, or combination thereof.

Accordingly, claim 1 as amended is believed to patentably distinguish over the Yao reference. Claims 3 and 5-8 are believed to be in condition for allowance as each is dependent from an allowable base claim.

With respect to claim 10, the claim has been amended to recite a bookmark having a substrate portion and a header portion integral with the substrate portion. The header portion comprises a time display having two digits for a first time readout and two digits for a second time readout. A control panel has a plurality of control buttons for starting time and stopping time and reversing counting direction. An electronic timer has (a) an oscillator for generating a clock signal, (b) a timer receiving the clock signal to count elapsed time, the timer being configurable to track incremental times and cumulative times, (c) a memory circuit coupled to the timer for storing the incremental and cumulative times, (d) a control interface having an input coupled to the control panel on the header and an output coupled to the timer, wherein the control interface receives commands to start time and stop time and reverse counting direction, (e) an audible alarm coupled to the timer for announcing a time sequence, and (f) a display interface having an input coupled to the timer and an output coupled to the time display on the header. A wireless communication interface is coupled to the electronic timer for downloading the incremental and cumulative times from the memory circuit.

None of the cited prior art references, taken singularly or in combination, teach or suggest a wireless communication interface coupled to the electronic timer for downloading the incremental and cumulative times from the memory circuit. Applicants believe that the recited wireless communication interface is not found in any individual cited prior art reference, or combination thereof.

Accordingly, claim 10 is believed to patentably distinguish over the Yao reference. Claims 12-15 are believed to be in

condition for allowance as each is dependent from an allowable base claim.

With respect to claim 24, the claim has been amended to recite a method of making a bookmark with an integrated electronic timer comprising the steps of forming a substrate, forming a header integral with the substrate, wherein the header includes a cavity, forming a time display on the header, the time display having two digits for a first time readout and two digits for a second time readout, forming a control panel on the header, the control panel having a plurality of control buttons for starting time and stopping time and reversing counting direction, disposing an electronic timer within the cavity of the header, the electronic timer being configurable to track incremental times and cumulative times for each of a plurality of individual readers and for each of a plurality of books for each of the plurality of individual readers, the electronic timer including (a) an oscillator for generating a clock signal, (b) a timer receiving the clock signal to count elapsed time, the timer being configurable to track incremental times and cumulative times, (c) a memory circuit coupled to the timer for storing the incremental and cumulative times and calendar date and time of reading sessions for each of the plurality of individual readers, (d) a control interface having an input coupled to the control panel on the header and an output coupled to the timer, wherein the control interface receives commands to start time and stop time and reverse counting direction, (e) a display interface having an input coupled to the timer, and (f) a sensor responsive to light conditions to start and stop the electronic timer circuit, and electrically coupling an output of the display interface of the electronic timer to the time display on the header.

None of the cited prior art references, taken singularly or in combination, teach or suggest the electronic timer as configurable to track incremental times and cumulative times for each of a plurality of individual readers and for each of a plurality of books for each of the plurality of individual readers. Moreover, none of the prior art references disclose a memory circuit coupled to the timer for storing the incremental and cumulative times and calendar date and time of reading sessions for each of the plurality of individual readers. These features are missing from the cited prior art references.

Certainly, none of the cited prior art references, taken singularly or in combination, teach or suggest a sensor responsive to light conditions to start and stop the electronic timer circuit. Applicants believe that the recited sensor feature is not found in any individual cited prior art reference, or combination thereof.

Accordingly, claim 24 is believed to patentably distinguish over the Yao reference. Claims 25-28 are believed to be in condition for allowance as each is dependent from an allowable base claim.

With respect to claim 33, the claim has been amended to recite a marking device for marking a book and tracking reading time comprising a bookmark having an interior housing. An electronic timer circuit is disposed within the interior housing of the bookmark for counting a count value. The electronic timer is configurable to track incremental times and cumulative times for each of a plurality of individual readers and for each of a plurality of books for each of the plurality of individual readers. The electronic timer circuit includes (a) an oscillator for generating a clock signal, (b) a timer receiving the clock

signal to count elapsed time, (c) a memory circuit coupled to the timer for storing the incremental and cumulative times and calendar date and time of reading sessions for each of the plurality of individual readers, (d) a control interface having an input and having an output coupled to the timer, and (e) a display interface having an input coupled to the timer. A control panel is disposed on the bookmark for controlling the electronic timer. The control panel has a plurality of control buttons coupled to the input of the control interface for starting time and stopping time and reversing counting direction. A time display is disposed on the bookmark and electrically coupled to an output of the display interface of the electronic timer for displaying the count value. The time display has two digits for a first time readout and two digits for a second time readout.

None of the cited prior art references, taken singularly or in combination, teach or suggest the electronic timer being configurable to track incremental times and cumulative times for each of a plurality of individual readers and for each of a plurality of books for each of the plurality of individual readers. Moreover, none of the prior art references disclose a memory circuit coupled to the timer for storing the incremental and cumulative times and calendar date and time of reading sessions for each of the plurality of individual readers. These features are missing from the cited prior art references.

Accordingly, claim 33 is believed to patentably distinguish over the Yao reference. Claims 34-36 are believed to be in condition for allowance as each is dependent from an allowable base claim.

The Office Action rejects claims 6, 15, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Yao in view of Ho '226, McMillan, Oooka, Konoya, and US patent 2319436 (Bailie). The Office Action rejects claims 6, 7, 15, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Yao in view of Ho '226, McMillan, Oooka, Konoya, and US patent 5382053 (Tanaka). The Office Action rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Yao in view of Ho '226, McMillan, Oooka, Konoya, and US patent 6024043 (Ho '043). The rejection to these dependent claims is considered moot in view of the amendments to the respective base claim.

Applicant(s) believe that all information and requirements for the application have been provided to the USPTO. If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of the Application, Applicant(s) invite the Examiner to call the undersigned attorney at the Examiner's convenience.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due with this filing to U.S. PTO Account No. 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,
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